

~~FAV NO.~~
BEST AVAILABLE COPYPATENT USSN: 09/975,020
Atty Dkt: 034047.013 (WRAIR 98-40/46)**AMENDMENT****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-3. Canceled

4. (Currently amended) A microfluidized lysate preparation free of dextran and comprises a microfluidized slurry of at least one *Leishmania* parasite strain and does not cause a false positive hypersensitivity reaction when administered to a subject made by microfluidizing through a chamber and disrupting the leishmania parasite strain with a sudden release of pressure.

5-10. Canceled

11. (Original) A kit comprising the microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 4 and directions for determining whether a subject has been exposed to a *Leishmania* parasite or was afflicted with Leishmaniasis.

12. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 11, wherein the *Leishmania* parasite strain is *L. tropica*, *L. mexicana*, *L. guyanensis*, *L. braziliensis*, *L. major*, *L. donovani*, *L. chagasi*, *L. amazonensis*, *L. peruviana*, *L. panamensis*, *L. pifanoi*, *L. infantum*, or *L. aethiopica*.

13-21. Canceled

22. (Previously presented) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 4, and further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable stabilizer.

23. (Previously presented) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 22, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable stabilizer is phenol.

24. (Currently amended) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 22, wherein the

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composition microfluidized lysate preparation is in the form of a liquid.

25. (Currently amended) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 22, wherein the composition microfluidized lysate preparation may be frozen or freeze-dried.

29. (Previously presented) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 4, wherein the microfluidized lysate preparation is heat treated.

30. (Previously presented) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 4, wherein the *Leishmania* parasite strain is *L. tropica*, *L. mexicana*, *L. guyanensis*, *L. braziliensis*, *L. major*, *L. donovani*, *L. chagasi*, *L. amazonensis*, *L. peruviana*, *L. panamensis*, *L. pifanoi*, *L. infantum*, or *L. aethiopica*.

31. Canceled.

32. (New) The microfluidized lysate preparation of claim 4, wherein the microfluidized slurry was made by passing the *Leishmania* parasite strain through a chamber and disrupting the *Leishmania* parasite strain with a sudden release of pressure.